CAVERSHAM AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 15th April 2003
at the Baptist Free Church Centre, Caversham, commencing at 7.45pm

Present: Mrs M Casey (President), B Manning (Chairman), L Watsham (Secretary), S Bolton (Treasurer), Committee and Members.
Apologies: Rosemary Bayford, Janet Field.

Opening and Welcome

Molly Casey welcomed all those present to the 36th AGM of CADRA, which she described as the oldest surviving association in the town with the exception of the Warren & District Residents' Association. Molly thanked Bruce Manning for having brought CADRA into the 21st century with a new Constitution and the benefits of new technology and pointed out that it was Bruce's enthusiasm and hard work that had produced the Caversham Village Sign.

Molly also sent greetings from the meeting to founder member Doris Thomas, currently ill in hospital.

1. Minutes of the 2002 AGM

Minutes of the 2002 AGM approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising

Re: 6 Woodland area alongside Chazey Road. Concerns brought up last year had been discussed with Adrian Lawson at RBC. There are currently no major issues the Friends of Chazey Wood are not already aware of.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reminded the meeting of CADRA's objectives and outlined how busy the year had been with ongoing work and public events. He highlighted the following:

i) Caversham Jubilee Festival. Bruce and Molly had been part of the organising committee and Bruce's firm had produced the Festival Programme. All the committee had been involved on the day and CADRA had recruited new members. Several thousand people had attended the event and the direct income from the event had been about £2000. As this was the first Festival, some of this had been spent on organisation but much of the money raised had gone to charities.
This year's Festival will be held on 13th September.

ii) Question Time. Over 200 residents had attended a lively evening of questions, which had been put to senior officers from RBC and the Police.

iii) The consultation process with RBC had broken down last year. The North Area Consultative Committee, which had been responsible for the Caversham Village Sign and improvements around the recycling site in Kings Meadow, ceased to exist. CADRA, together with the other associations protested to RBC. The new Chief Executive, Trish Haynes, has given her assurance that it is her intention that the Residents Associations north of the Thames shall continue to be consulted by RBC.

iv) Planning Watch. Thanks to Derek Bartlett and Lin Godfrey for their hard work in monitoring planning applications. CADRA is particularly concerned about the way small infill developments are having an adverse cumulative affect on the infrastructure of Caversham. RBC has been asked to use 'joined-up thinking' when considering small planning applications. There is hope that the new Local Plan will have some good effect.

v) The Committee ensures that CADRA is represented on various bodies such as the Transport Users Forum, Safer Caversham Forum, Globe, the Woodland and Waterways Forum etc.

vi) Membership. Membership levels have been maintained over the past year. However, CADRA will be undertaking a recruiting drive this year.

vii) Communication with Residents. There had been two Newsletters this year and good feedback from members. The Chairman thanked deliverers for their hard work in ensuring the distribution of the Newsletters. Work has started on the CADRA Website.

viii) The Caversham Village Sign. This could not be erected in the position originally chosen because of underground pipes. A commemorative plaque is to be fixed soon.

ix) The Chairman paid tribute to the work of the committee members throughout the year. He also paid tribute to the hard work over the years of Doris Thomas who was unable to attend the meeting through illness. As a tribute to her long service, it was proposed and accepted that she should be made an honorary life member of CADRA. The chairman also thanked Pat Bolton and presented her with a bouquet of flowers for her continued hospitality to the committee.

The Chairman looked forward to a bright future for CADRA with a new Chair, a new website, more members, more public meetings and a better working relationship with RBC.

4. Treasurer's Report

This was presented by Stewart Bolton. Copy of Accounts attached. The meeting voted to adopt the Accounts. Stewart thanked Bruce Manning for his leadership and made a presentation to him to mark his retirement from CADRA.

5. Election of Committee

The following retired from the Committee in accordance with Article 4.3 of the Constitution:
- Marian Fallowfield
- Jim Frost
- Doris Thomas (who does not seek re-election)

Bruce Manning also retired from the Committee.

The following were re-elected to the Committee:
Marian Fallowfield and Jim Frost.

Jennifer Millest was elected to the Committee.

In accordance with Article 4.4, members were notified of the co-option to the Committee during the year of John Roach. The co-option was approved unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

Lin Godfrey, who wished to discuss the possibility of Caversham reverting back to Oxfordshire, had contacted the Chairman. He pointed out that the Boundary Commission decided boundaries; hence, it was not practical to discuss the situation.

The Chairman then declared that the Annual General Meeting was formally concluded.

Post-AGM Presentation:
Immediately after the AGM, Mr. Charlie Doyle of the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust gave an interesting talk on the work of the Trust which is funded by voluntary subscriptions. Merchandise was sold and a collection taken in aid of the Trust.